

Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District

NEWS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS

April 3, 2001

Half Crown NCD Membership Study Underway

In November, 2000, the Cambridge Historical Commission initiated a study of the membership provisions of the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District. Some memberships on the Half Crown NCD Commission have lapsed recently and efforts to reinvigorate the Commission are underway.

The Half Crown NCD, established in 1984, was Cambridge's first such district. At the time, the Half Crown NCD was actively threatened by commercial encroachment from Harvard Square. While the neighborhood no longer faces the same threats it did, it would not be protected from inappropriate development if there were not an active commission to review applications for changes. If the Half Crown NCD Commission were to lapse completely, applications for alterations would be approved automatically, with no input from abutters and without consideration of potential negative impacts on the neighborhood.

It is critical to maintaining the character of the neighborhood to reinvigorate the Half Crown NCD Commission. Over the next few months, the Study Committee hopes to engage district residents in a discussion of how best to do this and what issues concern the neighborhood now. We hope you will join us in this discussion.

Membership Study Committee Meetings

A Study Committee has been appointed by the City Manager for the purpose of studying the membership provisions of the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District. The Committee consists of 3 members each of the Cambridge Historical Commission and the Half Crown NCD Commission, as well as 1 at-large member. Serving on the Study Committee are Lindsay Allison, M. Wyllis Bibbins, William King, Grenelle Scott, Jo Solet, Nan Stone, and Lucy Tittmann.

Study Committee meetings have been scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 10;

Thursday, April 26; and

Thursday, May 10

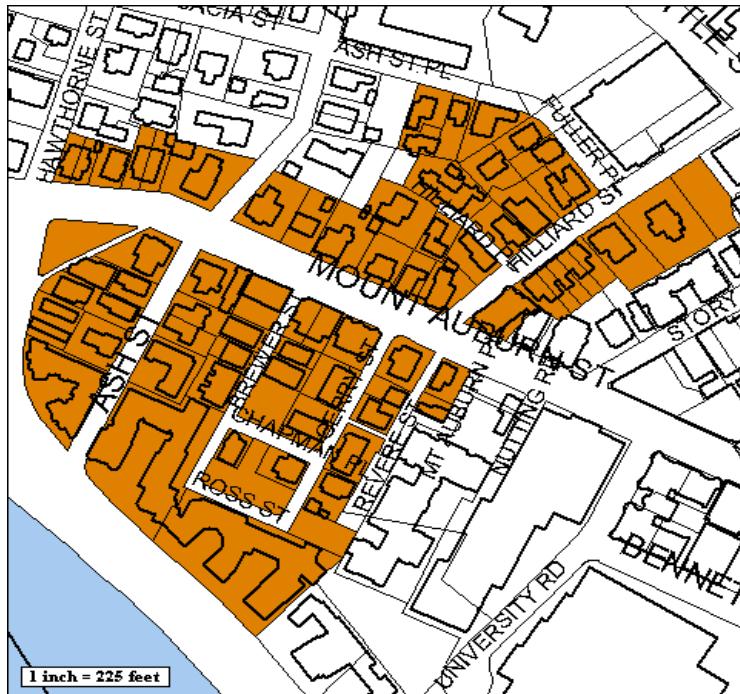
at 5:30 PM in the Harvard Information Center, Holyoke Center Arcade, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue. The public is invited to attend. All property owners will receive notification of meetings and public hearings, including any meetings that may be necessary beyond those listed.

Walking Tour Planned

The Study Committee has scheduled a Walking Tour of the Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District for Sunday, June 10, 2001 at 4:30 PM. The tour will give the Committee the opportunity to meet with neighborhood residents, develop a better understanding of Half Crown's history, and consider possible future development issues. Details of the Tour will be circulated in a later Newsletter.

Make Your Voice Heard

If there are issues of concern to YOU as a property owner in the Half Crown NCD, if you are interested in being considered for membership on the Half Crown NCD Commission, or if you would just like to share some thoughts about the neighborhood with the Committee, PLEASE LET US KNOW! Call or email Sally Zimmerman at the Cambridge Historical



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Commission (617 349 4686, szimmerman@ci.cambridge.ma.us), or come to one of the Committee's meetings. Information is also available at www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~Historic.